



RIDE4FUN
EDELWEISS TOURS

DESTINATION YAMAHA - HIGH ALPS & DOLOMITES

Three-country adventure through the Eastern Alps

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RIDING DAY 1 : SEEFELD IN TIROL - BOLZANO (BOZEN)

Standard Route (244 km / 152 miles)

Right in front of our doorstep, we find the first couple of curves and some gorgeous views down into the valley of the River Inn. Across the valley, our first pass is waiting: the Kühtai. Not very challenging, but a nice warm-up for what's to come. We turn left into the Ötztal valley, a very touristy place. As we proceed from town to town, we can watch the mountains around us becoming higher and higher. Beyond the famous ski resort town of Sölden, traffic eases and we find the beautiful Timmelsjoch pass road in front of us.

But before we tackle the pass, we get distracted by a famous museum. The world's highest motorcycle museum has several hundred bikes from many decades on display and is definitely worth the entrance fee.

After the pass, we descend to St. Leonhard for lunch at the Sandwirt, a very special guesthouse. It's only one hour to Bolzano from here if you skip two mountain passes but of course, we recommend not skipping anything around here. Jaufenpass and Penser Joch are very popular with local riders and there's a reason why.

Bolzano, our home for two nights, is a bustling and very beautiful city with great shopping, sightseeing, and nightlife opportunities. Enjoy!

Highlights:

#1: Top Mountain Motorcycle Museum



In mid-April 2016, the new motorcycle museum opened on the Timmelsjoch on the Austrian side in a spectacular location at 2175 meters above sea level.

The world was shocked when the entire museum burned down on January 18, 2021. The private collection fell victim to the flames. The reconstruction not only expanded and renewed the lost collection but also the entire concept of

the museum. Over 500 historic motorcycles from more than 150 different manufacturers as well as some automotive rarities tell their story on 4,500 m². An absolute must for every motorcyclist.

#2: Passo del Rombo (Timmelsjoch) (2509 m)



Long before the road was completed in 1969, people used the Timmelsjoch to cross the mountain range known as the Ötztaler Alps. At 2,509 m (8,231 ft), it is the second-highest pass in the eastern Alps (after Stelvio) and covers a vertical distance of more than 1,800 m (6,000 ft). Especially the Italian (southern) side is quite spectacular to ride, the views are breathtaking. In 1991, Ötzi the Ice Man was found on a slope about 20 km (14 mi) from the top of the pass. In April

2016, Europe's highest motorcycle museum opened its doors to the public, displaying a collection of 190 vintage bikes. Unfortunately, it burned to the ground in January 2021 and all bikes were lost. What a pity! The owners, however, went out of their lines and built up a new museum, which has been opened up again for visitors in the autumn of 2021.

#3: Passo di Monte Giovo (Jaufen Pass) (2094 m)



The 31 km long Jaufenpass (Passo di Monte Giovo in Italian) is very smooth to ride and always offers magnificent views of the South Tyrolean mountains. The pass summit at 2,094 meters is crowned by a tiny wooden hut called "Edelweissshütte". The small car park in front of it is often crowded with motorcycles from all over Europe.

#4: Passo di Pennes (Penser Joch) (2234 m)



99.9 % of all traffic flowing from the Brenner Pass down to Bolzano (and vice versa) follows the main road and expressway in the Eisack valley. The road across the Penserjoch and along the Sarntal valley is left to people with enough time, so to speak to the motorcyclists and the bicyclists. The two sides of the pass are very different from each other. From the south it's a 50 km ride from Bolzano to the pass while the northern ramp, from Sterzing, is only

15 km long and features way more curves, among them 8 hairpins. The road in the south has existed for a long time, the northern side, on the other hand, was only built in the 1930s. From the top you can enjoy great views of the main Alpine range and of the Dolomites.

RIDING DAY 2 : BOLZANO (BOZEN)

Standard Route (199 km / 124 miles)

This day offers a lot of options to spend a great rest day. You could stroll through the old town and sit at the main square, living the Italian way of life with an espresso. Bolzano has also very good shopping opportunities, as well as sights to be admired. Maybe you want to visit the museum of the famous Iceman "Ötzi?"

For those who prefer to ride on the rest day, the area around Bolzano is ideal to be explored by bike.

Are you prepared for a wonderful day of riding the finest motorcycle roads? Come and experience the beauty of the Dolomites! A day full of twists and turns.

Highlights:

#1: Bolzano (Bozen)



This area was settled by the Romans in 15 BC. General Nero Claudius Drusus, to whom the name of the first settlement in the area refers to, set up this army camp by the River Isarco. The village founded nearby was called Bauzanum. Since its foundation and elevation to a town over 800 years ago, Bolzano has been a trading point. The main reason for this was its location in between the two major cities of

Venice and Augsburg. Four times a year a market was held, and traders came from the south and the north. Therefore, a mercantile magistrate was founded in 1635. Every market season, two Italian and two German officers (appointed from the traders who operated there) worked in this office. The city was a cultural cross point at that time. The city's Italian-Austrian character, enhanced by the narrow cobblestone streets, Habsburg-era churches and pervasive bilingual signage, provide for the unique charm of a city halfway between Italian and Austrian cultures. Together with its natural and cultural attractions, this makes Bolzano a renowned tourist destination. Enjoy the great mixture of the Italian-Austrian lifestyle and cuisine in the wonderful historic centre of Bozen. In the archaeological museum in Bozen lies the more than 5000 years old Ice Man. The "Ötzi" or "Frozen Fritz", as he is called, was found in the mountains right on the Italian-Austrian border. Thanks to his discovery, many secrets of the way of life during his time in history were able to be revealed.

#2: Lago di Carezza (Karer Lake)



The Karersee is so beautiful that you could think Kodak set it up to take the perfect postcard photo. It is often referred to as the "Jewel of the Dolomites", probably because of its spectacular emerald green color. Or is it its unique location between the mighty rock towers of the Latemar and the Rosengarten, reflecting in its smooth surface? The Ladin language knows this lake as "Lec de Ergobando", meaning rainbow lake. A fitting name for this piece of art brought to you by Mother Nature.

#3: Dolomites



The name Dolomites is derived from the name of the French geologist, Déodat de Dolomieu. He discovered that the limestone in this area is different in its chemical composition compared to that of the northern limestone area. Special sedimentary rocks form incredibly rough and beautiful formations like Marmolada, Sella, and the Tre Cime de Lavaredo. They are the most photographed mountains of the Dolomites. Historically, it is an interesting place. Belonging to the Austrian Monarchy during World War I, the frontline led right through the mountains. Fighting from 1916 to 1919, the soldiers had to stay in the mountains through summer as well as winter. A really tough life! Austria was one of the losers of the war. At the peace treaty of St. Germain in 1919, they agreed to hand Southern Tyrol over to Italy. That leads us to the explanation of the bilingual road signs and village names. You can very easily pick out the former border between Italy and Austria by looking at your map or by reading the signs. Don't be confused if you see village signs in three languages. The third one is Ladinish, spoken by a few people in a small area. Be prepared for an unbelievable ride in an incredible area!

#4: Passo Fedaia (2,057 m)



You will find the most well-known rock formations of the Dolomite mountains on top of the Fedaia pass. Riding your motorcycle up the twisty mountain road to its highest point at 2,057 m (6,750 ft), an impressive vista of the mighty Marmolata mountain range welcomes you at the shores of the water reservoir. A unique experience is the ride along the concrete dam to the other side of the water reservoir, opening up more opportunities for pictures.

RIDING DAY 3 : BOLZANO (BOZEN) - LIVIGNO

Standard Route (200 km / 124 miles)

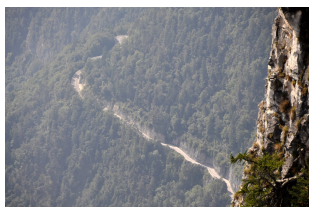
Today we leave South Tyrol and ride over to the neighboring province of Lombardy. As a warm-up, we fight our way through the traffic of Bolzano since the capital of South Tyrol lacks a bypass. But the reward for the effort follows promptly because the Mendel Pass is a real motorcycle fantasy thanks to its excellently built curves.

On the other side, we descend into the Non Valley, which is covered over and over with apple orchards, and continue into the Val di Sole, which we follow for quite a while. Then we turn right and take one of the most spectacular passes of the entire Alps under our wheels: the Passo di Gavia. On the way up, the road is often only one lane and without any side protection, which can be very exciting in case of oncoming traffic. The break at the top of the pass at an altitude of over 2,600 m is well deserved!

At the foot of the Gavia Pass, in Bormio, we follow the sign towards Livigno, a customs exclusion area, where you can find excellent strolling and shopping. If you don't find souvenirs here, you have only yourself to blame.

Highlights:

#1: Passo della Mendola (Mendel Pass) (1363 m)



The Mendel Pass, or Passo della Mendola in Italian, is located southwest of Bolzano between the two provinces of South Tyrol and Trentino and has always formed the language border between the German-speaking and Italian-speaking Tyrol. From its highest point at 1,363 m, a small and often dirty cul-de-sac leads to the Penegal (1737 m), from which a breathtaking view opens up over the entire

Adige Valley.

The Mendel Pass is one of the most frequented passes since ancient times. The Tonale road, completed in 1856 for the military, was supplemented by the Mendel Pass in 1879 and opened up South Tyrol as a vacation destination for the high society from Milan and Turin. Today, the Mendel Pass is an absolute highlight among the Alpine passes, especially for motorcyclists.

#2: Penegal



From the top of Mendel Pass a narrow, twisty, and badly maintained road leads to the summit of Monte Penegal. Spectacular views are almost normal on this tour - but this is phenomenal even for this area. The difference in Elevation from here to Caldaro Lake, deep down in the

Adige valley, is a whopping 1,500 meters (5,000 ft)! The sweeping views include Bolzano deep down towards the north, the Dolomites in the east, the Brenta Mountains in the southwest, and the Ortler (South Tyrol's highest peak) in the west. Penegal is an outstanding viewpoint, even in South Tyrol, and it is best enjoyed with a fresh Cappuccino.

#3: Passo di Gavia (Gavia Pass) (2618 m)



Gavia Pass, 2,618 m (8,589 ft) high and 43 km (27 mi) long, is located in Italy's Lombardy region and divides the province of Sondrio in the north from the province of Brescia in the south. The road over the pass connects Bormio in the northwest with Ponte di Legno in the south and is a single lane for most of its southern section. Gavia Pass is often part of the route of the Giro d'Italia road

bicycle race and is sometimes designated the Cima Coppi, the highest point of the race. Same as Stelvio, this pass is a first-class attraction for European riders!

#4: Livigno



The small town (6000 inhabitants) is situated at an altitude of more than 6000 feet. Due to its extremely remote location, in 1805 Napoleon declared the village to be duty-free - hoping that this would help the village's development. This status remains unchanged today, making Livigno very attractive for shoppers and skiers.

RIDING DAY 4 : LIVIGNO

Standard Route (200 km / 124 miles)

On today's rest day you could rest and pass some time in Livigno, for example by shopping, since Livigno is a duty-free area. Perfume, alcohol, tobacco, and chocolate are cheap, and there is also a lot of choice in clothing, sporting goods, and souvenirs.

However, we very much expect that you will also want to ride your motorcycle over a few high passes today and have put together a nice loop. First, we'll cross the Forcola di Livigno over into Switzerland and over the Bernina Pass down to St. Moritz. We only take a short look at this city of the rich and beautiful, as the next passes are already calling to us. Albula and Flüela are still something like insider tips, there is usually very little traffic here.

Depending on the weather and temperature, you can enjoy a real Swiss lunch at the top of the Flüela Pass or down in Zerneß before heading to the last pass of the day. The Ofen Pass is the lowest today, but it brings a lot of riding fun. Back to Livigno, we then head through the Munt-Lascher tunnel. After all, we want to be back in time before all the stores close...

Highlights:

#1: St. Moritz



St. Moritz is the traditional destination for the rich and beautiful and the international jet set. No wonder, this place has developed from a renowned health and spa town into one of the most expensive ski resorts in the world. See and be seen is the motto for those who want to bring their money to the people in Switzerland. The Olympic Winter Games were held here in 1928 and 1948, and the World Ski Championships in 2003. Since the early 1980s, St. Moritz

has become one of the world's top ski destinations in competition with the well-known ski resorts in Austria (Seefeld, Lech am Arlberg) and Italy (Cortina d'Ampezzo, Val Gardena). Every winter the horse race White Turf takes place on the frozen St. Moritz lake, an important event for the international upper class.

#2: Albula Pass (2312 m)



The Albulapass is the less-traveled alternative to the Julierpass. So for all those who like it more quiet and contemplative. Its descent in the direction of Lenzerheide is a narrow, scenic but all the more attractive route. In the upper part of the north ramp, the scree fields are striking, giving a Stone Age impression in the truest sense of the word.

#3: Flüela Pass (2383 m)



Flüela Pass leads you high above the tree line up to 2,383 m (7,818 ft). Take the time for a picture on your way up to take the beautiful mountain landscape in, or enjoy a cup of coffee and the fantastic views from the Flüela Hospiz. The Flüela Pass was also used as a trading route to exchange alpine products such as cheese, etc. with the sought-after salt. From the 13th century on merchants have been travelling on a mountain track over the Flüela to Austria

and even into Italy. Only in 1867, a road was built over the Flüela Pass to ease traffic, which also supported traveling by stagecoach.

#4: Pass dal Fuorn (Oven Pass) (2149 m)



Being an easier-to-ride alternative next to the Stelvio Pass, the Fuorn Pass leads you directly into the heart of the Swiss national park. It offers a nice variety of narrow and wide curves, very much to the delight of any type of motorcyclist. At the western end of the pass, you can turn into the duty-free town of Livigno via the toll tunnel Muntla-Schera. At the top of the pass at 2149m, a restaurant invites you for a break.

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#5: Livigno



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RIDING DAY 5 : LIVIGNO - SEEFELD IN TIROL

Standard Route (224 km / 139 miles)

We saved the best for last! Or at least the highest: Stelvio Pass, the Queen of Alpine Roads! Up at 2,758 m, the air is crisp and thin. 48 tight switchbacks lead us down again, we ride through medieval Glorenza/Glurns, Italy's smallest city, and across Reschen pass into Austria. Be fascinated by the sunken church (and the entire village as well) in Lake Resia, where only the bell tower sticks out of the water.

In Austria, we follow the Inn River, leave it for a quick stint up the mountain to marvel at the scenery from a magnificent viewpoint, and before you know it, we're in Mieming where we return the motorcycles at the Edelweiss headquarters' garage. At this point, the feeling of dizziness from all those switchbacks may have subsided...

Highlights:

#1: Passo dello Stelvio (Stelvio Pass) (2758 m)



Planned in 1818, this pass road was built within 5 years (1820-1825) by about 2,000 workers. Because of the horse-drawn vehicles of the time, the gradient was limited to a maximum of 11%. At an altitude of 2,758 m (9,048 ft), Passo dello Stelvio is the highest pass in Italy and the second-highest paved pass of the Alps. With its 48 tight switchbacks on the northern side, it is a tourist attraction

famous all over Europe and a first-class attraction for European riders. You will love it, too!

#2: Glorenza (Glurns)



With 924 inhabitants, Glurns is Italy's smallest city. Located on the old salt trade route, the town was very important during the 14th and 15th centuries. During the Engadin War between the Habsburg army and the Swiss farmers in 1499, the town was destroyed. The inhabitants rebuilt their hometown in the 16th century surrounding it with a new 10 m (30 ft.) high wall. It seems Glurns has been sleeping since that time and, hence, preserved its medieval character.

#3: Lago di Resia (Lake Reschen)



Prior to the creation of the reservoir lake, the Reschenpass featured three lakes. Expropriations for this project already began under the Fascist government in 1940-41. A total of 163 houses and 523 hectares of fertile soil, including the village Graun and a large part of the village Reschen, drowned in the new lake. Despite great protests from the population, the project could no longer be stopped. Today


we still see the listed church steeple of Graun bizarrely peeking out of the lake.

#4: Mieming



Mieming is the headquarter of Edelweiss Bike Travel. Our world has a lot to offer and it is possible to get to know more and more parts of it, and that's what we've been doing this since 1980 together with our tour members.

1980 Werner and Coral Wachter pioneered the concept of guided tours on two wheels. Today the company is still family owned and you continue to feel the family spirit. We at Edelweiss live the passion of travelling on two wheels, and you will feel it on our tours.



We wish you a wonderful tour.

Worldwide the #1 in
guided motorcycle tours.



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